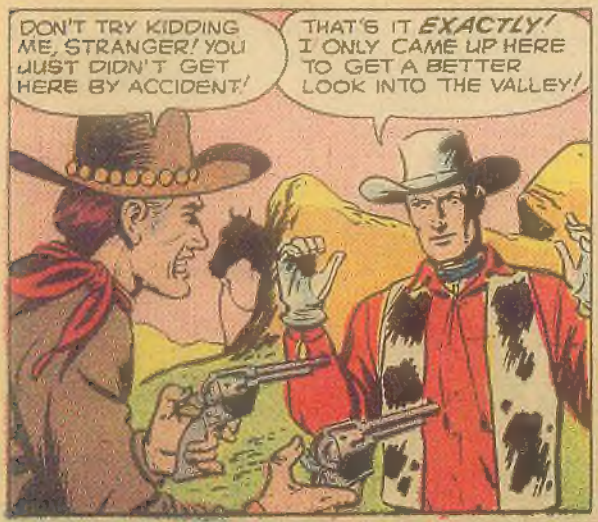
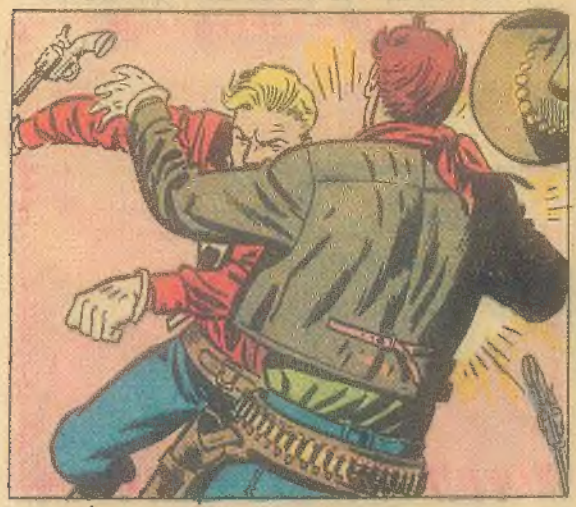
ATLAS
KID COLT OUTLAW
KID COLT'S BRAND-NEW THRILLS!
KID COLT OUTLAW
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
10¢
NOV. NO. 54
KID COLT IN "WANTED!"
"GUN-SMOKE!"

KID COLT OUTLAW IN "WANTED!"

HOW DO I KNOW THIS ISN'T A TRICK? HOW CAN I BE SURE YOU'RE NOT ONE OF 'EM?
ONE OF WHOM?
THE HANDS THAT HELD THE GUNS WERE LEAN AND STEADY AND THE GRAY EYES BENEATH THE WIDE BRIM OF THE STETSON WERE GRIM WITH DETERMINATION! THIS WASN'T A MAN TO BE FOOLED WITH, AND IT WAS APPARENT IN EVERY GESTURE, EVERY MOVE, AND IN THE STEEL-EDGED QUALITY OF HIS VOICE...
JACK KELLER

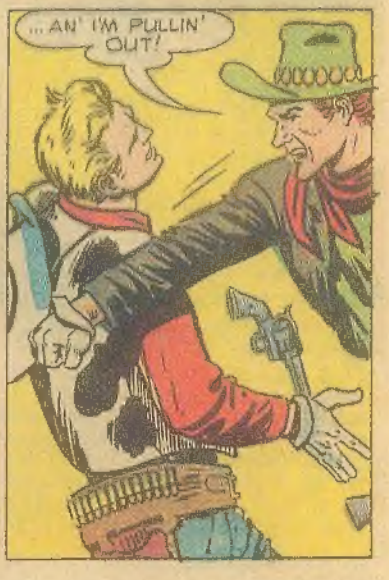

DON'T TRY KIDDING ME, STRANGER! YOU JUST DIDN'T GET HERE BY ACCIDENT!
THAT'S IT EXACTLY! I ONLY CAME UP HERE TO GET A BETTER LOOK INTO THE VALLEY!

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT OCCURRED WITH STARTLING SPEED! THERE WAS A BLUR OF QUICK MOVEMENT, FOLLOWED BY THE SOUND OF SOLID IMPACT.



AND THEN THE HILLS ROCKED TO THE ECHOING BLAST OF THE THUNDEROUS COLTS...

BUT AS HE ROSE TO HIS FEET, THE MUFFLED POUND OF HOOF-BEATS CAME THEIR WAY..



THE KID STRUGGLED TO HIS FEET, AS THE RIDERS REINED IN...

I'M SHERIFF CROWLEY! THESE MEN WITH ME ARE CITIZENS OF TWIN FORK! WE WERE LOOKING FOR A MAN BY THE NAME OF TED STEWART, WHEN WE HEARD SHOTS COMING FROM THESE PARTS!
THOSE WERE MY SHOTS, SHERIFF, AND I THINK THE MAN YOU'RE LOOKING FOR GOT AWAY!

I SAID WE'D DO BETTER SEARCHIN' THESE HILLS FIRST! NOW HE'S GIVEN US THE SLIP!
DRESSEN, I'LL REMIND YOU THAT I'M THE OFFICIAL LAWMAN IN THIS PARTY!

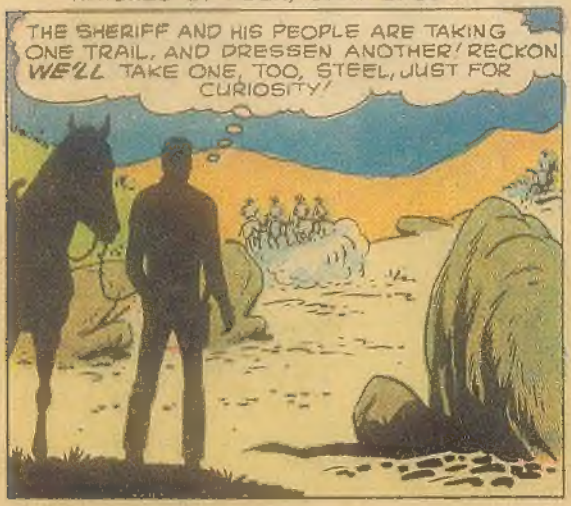
SHORTLY AFTERWARD, THE KID IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AND TOLD HIS STORY...

ROUGHLY, THAT'S ABOUT IT, SHERIFF! I'M ONLY SORRY I LET HIM GET AWAY... ESPECIALLY IF THE CHARGE WAS SERIOUS!
IT IS SERIOUS! THE CHARGE IS MURDER!

I'M NOT SO SURE I BELIEVE YORE STORY! FOR ALL I KNOW MEBBE YOU HELPED HIM GET AWAY!
YOU EITHER PROVE THAT OR RETRACT THOSE WORDS!

YOU'VE CAUSED A PACK OF TROUBLE EVER SINCE WE RODE OUT! I RECKON WE COULD DISPENSE WITH YORE SERVICES!
THAT SUITS ME FINE, SHERIFF!

HOOFBEATS CLATTERED NOISILY OVER LOOSE SHALE, AND THEIR DEPARTURE WAS CAREFULLY WATCHED BY KEEN, GRAY EYES...



BUT THE KID WASN'T THE ONLY ONE WHO WAS CURIOUS...

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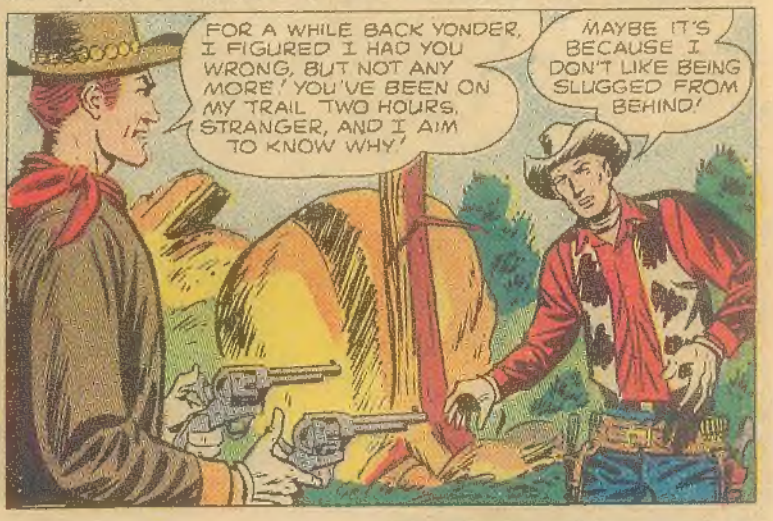
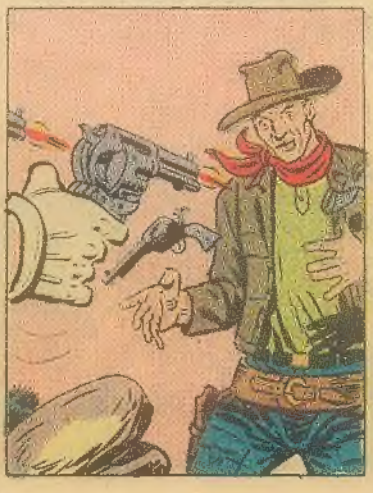
TWO HOURS PASSED, AND THE KID PRESSED ON, HIS EVERY SENSE KEENLY ALERT, HIS TRAINED EYE SPOTTING THE FAINTEST CLUES...

AND SOON THE TRAIL BECAME EVEN WARMER...

SLOWLY THE KID TURNED, AND ONCE AGAIN HE STARED INTO THE BLACK, GAPING BARRELS OF THE GLISTENING "PEACEMAKERS"...


FOR A WHILE BACK YONDER, I FIGURED I HAD YOU WRONG, BUT NOT ANY MORE! YOU'VE BEEN ON MY TRAIL TWO HOURS, STRANGER, AND I AIM TO KNOW WHY!
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE I DON'T LIKE BEING SLUGGED FROM BEHIND!

LIKE FLASHING PISTONS, THE KID'S HANDS SWEPT BACK TO THE LOW-SLUNG HOLSTERS, THEN PUMPED FORWARD...



I'M NOT WASTING WORDS...THERE ISN'T TIME! SOME FOLKS ARE SAYING YOU KILLED A MAN! SOMEHOW I DON'T TAKE YOU FOR THAT TYPE OF MAN!
I'M NOT! I NEVER KILLED FRED CHANEY!

THE NIGHT BEFORE LAST, CHANEY AND I HAD WORDS TOGETHER! HE HIT A FAIR STRIKE A FEW WEEKS BACK, AND I ASKED HIM FOR A LOAN! HE TURNED ME DOWN COLD! I RECKON SOME NAME-CALLIN' FOLLOWED, AND THEY HAD TO SEPARATE US...
"ANYWAY, I FELT DIFFERENT ABOUT IT IN THE MORNING! CHANEY AND I HAD BEEN TRAIL-MATES FOR YEARS, AND I WASN'T GOING TO LET MONEY GET BETWEEN US! I RODE OUT TO HIS PLACE TO APOLOGIZE, BUT I NO SOONER PUSHED OPEN THE FRONT DOOR, WHEN THERE HE WAS!..
CHANEY... HE'S BEEN DONE IN!
"I DID THE FIRST THING THAT CAME INTO MY HEAD! I MADE TRACKS AND I MADE 'EM FAST"..
"BUT SOME NEIGHBORS SPOTTED ME, AND WITH WHAT HAPPENED THE NIGHT BEFORE, I KNEW THERE COULD BE NO EXPLAINING"..
THAT'S TED STEWART, AIN'T IT?
YEAH.. AN' HE'S SURE IN AN AWFUL RUSH!
I RECKON YOU'RE RIGHT! I NEVER SHOULD HAVE RUN! BY TELLING THE TRUTH, I COULD'VE STOOD A CHANCE!
WELL, IT'S NOT TOO LATE YET!
I RECKON IT IS TOO LATE!
HUH?
SLOWLY THE KID TURNED, AND HIS WORDS WERE SLOW AND MEASURED...
EASY, DRESSEN! THIS MAN IS READY TO STAND TRIAL!
WE DON'T NEED NO TRIAL! IT'S AN OPEN AND SHUT CASE!
6

THERE'S SOMETHING ODD HERE, DRESSEN! WHY ARE YOU AGAINST HIS STANDING TRIAL?
YOU'RE TOO NOSY, AN' YOU'VE GONE TOO FAR!

BUT BEFORE THE REVERBERATIONS BOUNCED OFF THE ECHOING HILLS, THE KID'S GUNS ROARED BACK...

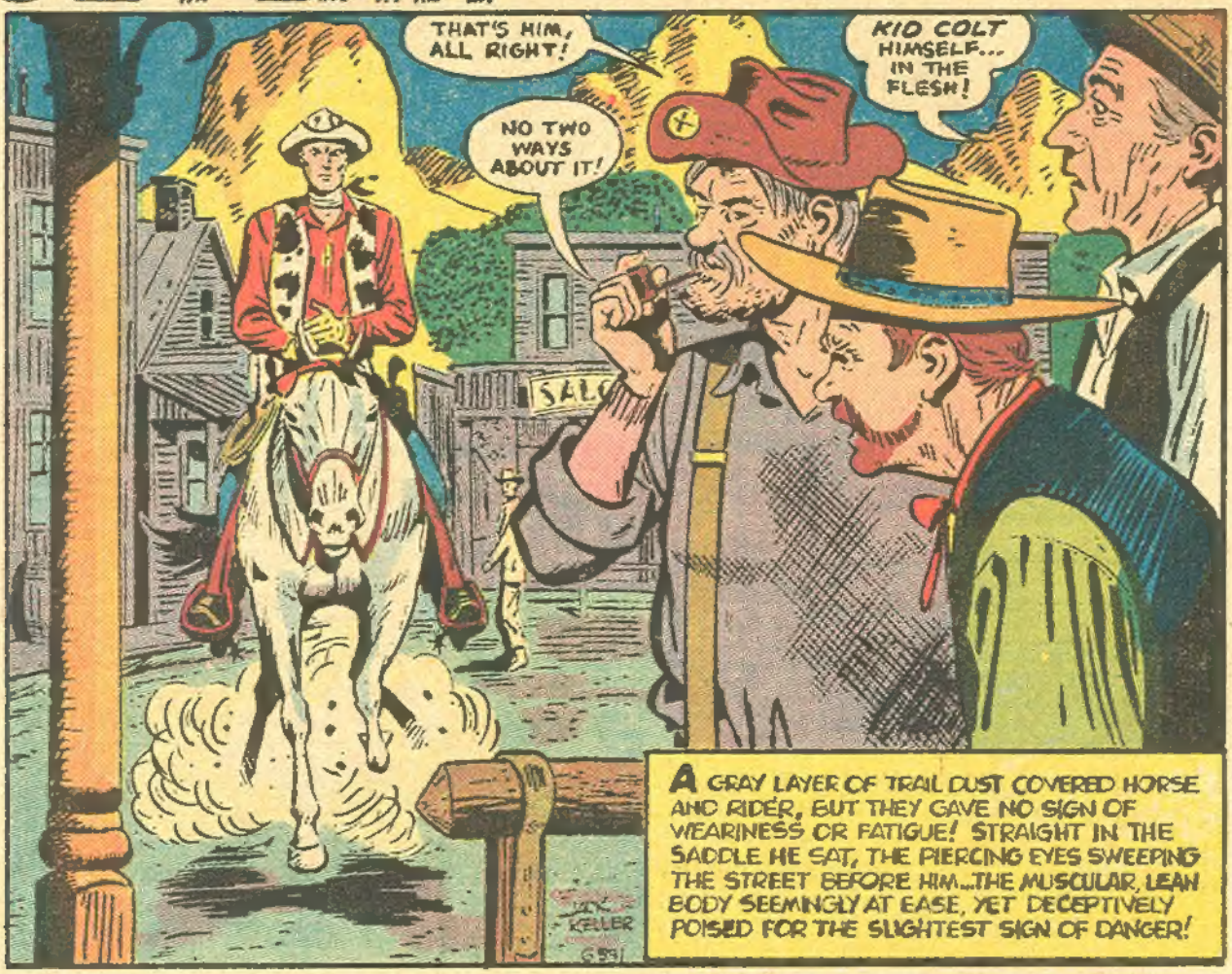
I'M GOING OVER! HELP!

BY THE TIME THEY REACHED HIM, THE SHERIFF HAD JOINED UP...
HE'S KNOCKED OUT AND PLENTY BRUISED, BUT HE'LL LIVE!
BUT LOOK HERE, SHERIFF! THIS MONEY BELT! IT BELONGED TO CHANEY! YOU'LL FIND HIS NAME ON THE BACK!

I RECKON THIS EXPLAINS WHY DRESSEN DIDN'T WANT TED TO STAND TRIAL! HE KILLED CHANEY AND THEN ROBBED HIM! HE ALSO FIGURED TED WOULD BE BLAMED! HE WANTED TO SILENCE TED FOR GOOD, AND THEN THE CASE WOULD BE CLOSED AND OVER WITH!
THAT'S IT, ALL RIGHT!

I'M A FREE MAN, THANKS TO YOU!
I'M GLAD, TED, AND I RECKON YOU'VE LEARNED SOMETHING! A MAN IN THE RIGHT NEVER HAS TO RUN! SOMEHOW, SOME WAY, JUSTICE WILL BE WORKING ON HIS SIDE!
THE END

KID COLT OUTLAW IN "THE VISITOR!"


THAT'S HIM, ALL RIGHT!
NO TWO WAYS ABOUT IT!
KID COLT HIMSELF... IN THE FLESH!
A GRAY LAYER OF TRAIL DUST COVERED HORSE AND RIDER, BUT THEY GAVE NO SIGN OF WEARINESS OR FATIGUE! STRAIGHT IN THE SADDLE HE SAT, THE PIERCING EYES SWEEPING THE STREET BEFORE HIM...THE MUSCULAR, LEAN BODY SEEMINGLY AT EASE, YET DECEPTIVELY POISED FOR THE SLIGHTEST SIGN OF DANGER!
JACK KELLER

BUT A MOMENT LATER, THE HUSHED WHISPERS DIED ON THEIR LIPS, AND THE AIR SUDDENLY BRISTLED WITH IMPENDING DISASTER!
YOU WANT SOMETHIN' HERE, MISTER?
I RECKON I DO! I'M LOOKIN' FOR SHERIFF POTTER'S PLACE!

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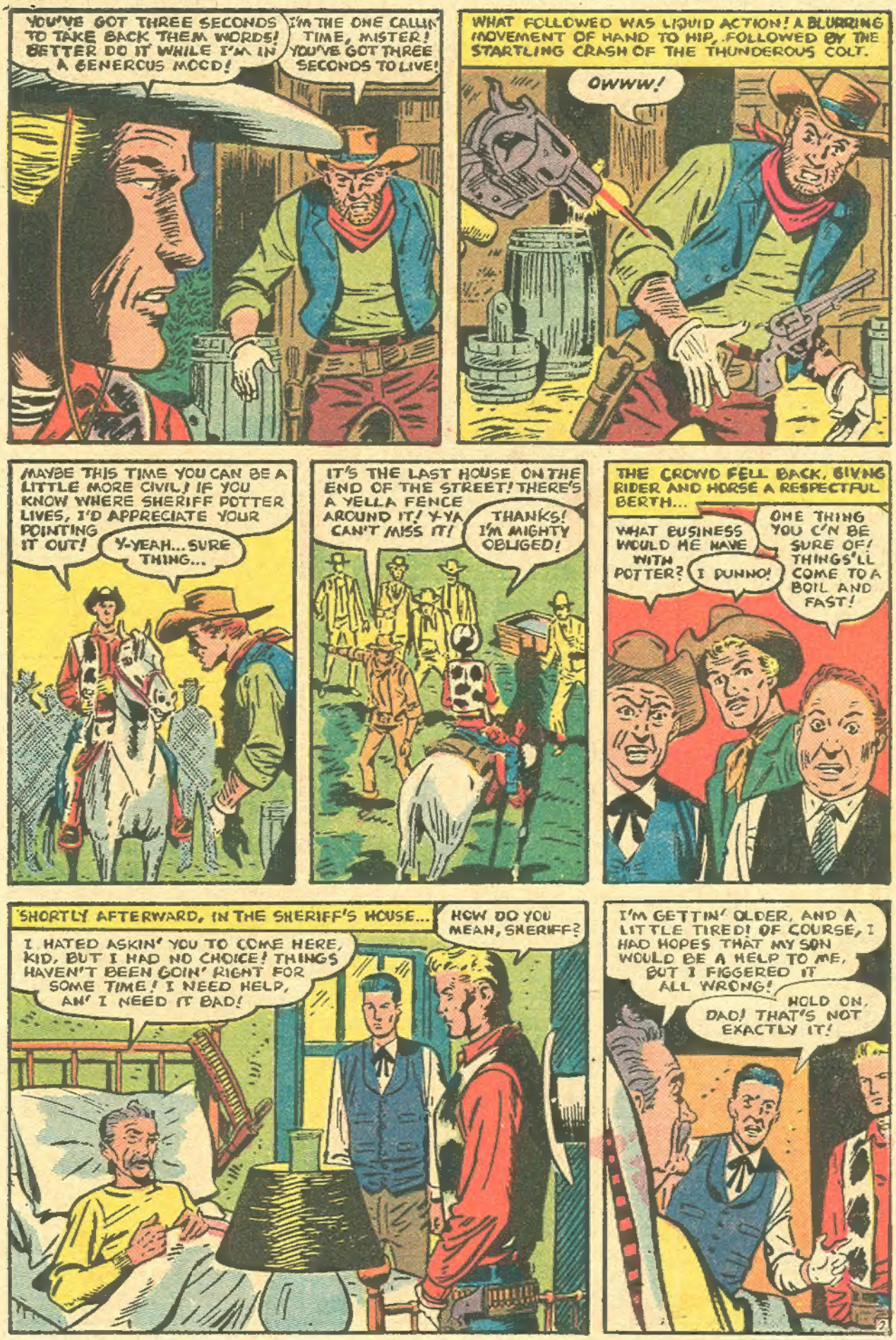
YOU'VE GOT THREE SECONDS TO TAKE BACK THEM WORDS! BETTER DO IT WHILE I'M IN A GENEROUS MOOD!
I'M THE ONE CALLIN' TIME, MISTER! YOU'VE GOT THREE SECONDS TO LIVE!
WHAT FOLLOWED WAS LIQUID ACTION! A BLURRING MOVEMENT OF HAND TO HIP, FOLLOWED BY THE STARTLING CRASH OF THE THUNDEROUS COLT.
OWWW!
MAYBE THIS TIME YOU CAN BE A LITTLE MORE CIVIL! IF YOU KNOW WHERE SHERIFF POTTER LIVES, I'D APPRECIATE YOUR POINTING IT OUT!
Y-YEAH... SURE THING...
IT'S THE LAST HOUSE ON THE END OF THE STREET! THERE'S A YELLA FENCE AROUND IT! Y-YA CAN'T MISS IT!
THANKS! I'M MIGHTY OBLIGED!
THE CROWD FELL BACK, GIVING RIDER AND HORSE A RESPECTFUL BERTH...
WHAT BUSINESS WOULD HE HAVE WITH POTTER?
I DUNNO!
ONE THING YOU C'N BE SURE OF! THINGS'LL COME TO A BOIL AND FAST!
SHORTLY AFTERWARD, IN THE SHERIFF'S HOUSE...
I HATED ASKIN' YOU TO COME HERE, KID, BUT I HAD NO CHOICE! THINGS HAVEN'T BEEN GOIN' RIGHT FOR SOME TIME! I NEED HELP, AN' I NEED IT BAD!
HOW DO YOU MEAN, SHERIFF?
I'M GETTIN' OLDER, AND A LITTLE TIRED! OF COURSE, I HAD HOPES THAT MY SON WOULD BE A HELP TO ME, BUT I FIGGERED IT ALL WRONG!
HOLD ON, DAD! THAT'S NOT EXACTLY IT!

DON'T TRY SMOOTH-TALKIN' YOUR WAY OUT OF IT, RANDY! WEARIN' THE STAR TAKES COURAGE AN' I RECKON THAT'S ONE THING YOU HAVEN'T GOT!
HAVE IT YOUR WAY, BUT HEAR ME OUT...
I'VE GROWN UP IN THIS HOUSE AND I'VE SEEN A LOT OF THINGS! I'VE SEEN MY MOTHER NEVER KNOWING FROM ONE MINUTE TO THE NEXT WHETHER YOU'D BE COMING HOME OR NOT! I'VE SEEN A LOT AND I'VE THOUGHT A LOT TOO!
YOU'VE TAUGHT ME TO BE HONEST, AND I DON'T FEEL THAT BEING A LAWMAN IS FOR ME, DAD... I'M SORRY!
THEN I'LL BE HONEST TOO! YOU'D BETTER GO, RANDY... THE SOONER THE BETTER!
LONG, DISMAL SECONDS PASSED! SLOWLY THE YOUNG MAN TURNED, WALKED OFF, AND THE DOOR CLOSED SILENTLY BEHIND HIM...
WASN'T THAT A BIT HARSH, SHERIFF?
I RECKON IT WAS...BUT THAR'S NO OTHER WAY! FOR THIRTY YEARS I'VE BEEN SHERIFF IN THIS TOWN! I'VE WORKED HARD AND I BROUGHT HER A CLEAN NAME! I WAS PROUD OF WHAT I ACCOMPLISHED!
BUT AN OLD MAN DOESN'T SCARE ANYONE AND DURIN' THE PAST FEW MONTHS, IT'S BEEN ONE AILMENT AFTER ANOTHER! THE WORD'S BEEN GETTIN' AROUND, TOO! THE BAD ELEMENTS ARE DRIFTIN' BACK! MAYBE NOW YOU KNOW WHY I SENT FOR YOU!
I RECKON SO!
I'LL STICK AROUND...DO THE BEST I CAN!
THAT'LL BE GOOD ENOUGH, AN' IT WON'T BE FOR LONG! AS SOON AS I GET OVER THIS LUMBAGO, YOU'LL BE FREE TO GO!
BUT AS THE KID AND THE SHERIFF DISCUSSED THEIR PLANS, OTHER MEN, IN ANOTHER PART OF TOWN WERE DOING THE SAME THING...
IT SOUNDS GREAT, CLOONEY, PROVIDIN' IT WORKS!
IT'LL WORK ALL RIGHT! SHERIFF POTTER IS ON THE WAY OUT, AND HE KNOWS IT! THIS TIME WE'RE HERE TO STAY!

DON'T COUNT ON IT, CLOONEY! WE'VE GOT A VISITOR IN TOWN! AN HOMBRE WHO GOES BY THE NAME OF KID COLT!
WHAT?
SO WHAT IF HE IS HERE? I'VE INVESTED TOO MUCH IN MY GAMBLIN' ESTABLISHMENT TO PULL OUT NOW! WE'LL TAKE CARE OF COLT!
THE SOONER THE BETTER!
IT WASN'T LONG IN TAKING PLACE .. ONE MOMENT THERE WERE JUST THE FRIENDLY SOUNDS OF A TOWN AT WORK, AND THEN SUDDENLY ALL FURY ITSELF BROKE LOOSE...
GUNFIRE... AN' PLENTY OF IT!
IT'S OLEM FORD AN' JESS TAYLOR! ALL OF A SUDDEN, THEY JUST TORE LOOSE AT EACH OTHER!
GOLDEN HO
THERE WAS ONLY ONE THOUGHT IN HIS MIND, TO QUELL THE DISTURBANCE! THE SWINGING DOORS CRASHED INWARD BEFORE HIS HURTLING FORM, AND THEN HE FROZE WHERE HE STOOD, HIS EYES BRIGHT WITH DISBELIEF...
EMPTY! THERE'S NO ONE HERE!
YOU'RE WRONG, KID!
TWIN CRASHES ERUPTED IN THE SILENCE, BUT THE KID WAS NO STANDING TARGET...

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AND AS THE SOUNDS OF ECHO NG BLASTS SOUNDED THROUGH SHERIFF POTTER'S OPEN WINDOW
THE KID'LL NEED HELP! GOTTA GIT TO 'EM... FAST!
BUT AS THE AGED LAWMAN PREPARED TO LEAVE
YOU!
I HEARD THE SHOOTING! I RODE ON BACK!
I FIGURED YOU'D TRY SOMETHING LIKE THIS! DON'T BE A HERO DAD! STAY HERE!
I AIN'T NO HERO, BUT I'M STILL SHERIFF! GIT YORE HANDS OFFA ME!
OUTA MY WAY, I SAID!
OUT HE CAME, THE LEAN JAW THRUST GRIMLY FORWARD, THE GNARLED HANDS GRIPPED TIGHTLY AROUND THE IVORY BUTTS OF THE GLISTENING "PEACE-MAKERS."
SHERIFF
THEN HE CALMLY STEPPED FORWARD INTO THE SMOKE AND FURY AND THE WHISTLING LEAD...
DOWN, SHERIFF!
RUN 'EM DOWN, BOYS. IT'S ONLY ONE HOMBRE AND AN OLD GEEZER! THIS TIME WE FINISH 'EM!
LET'S GO!
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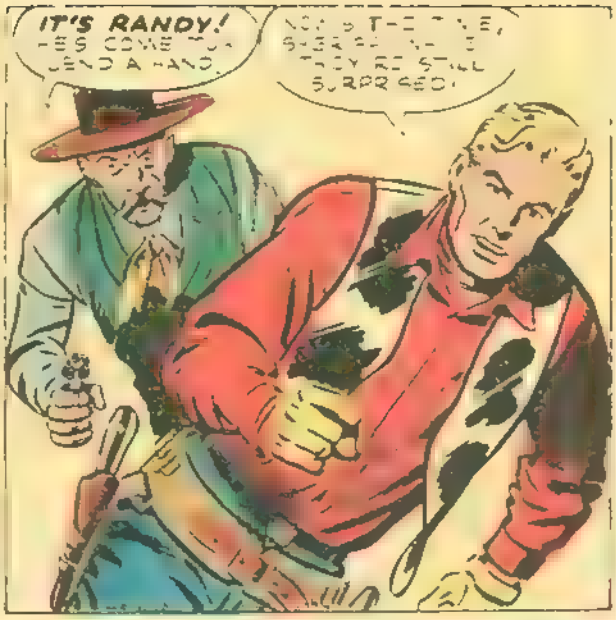
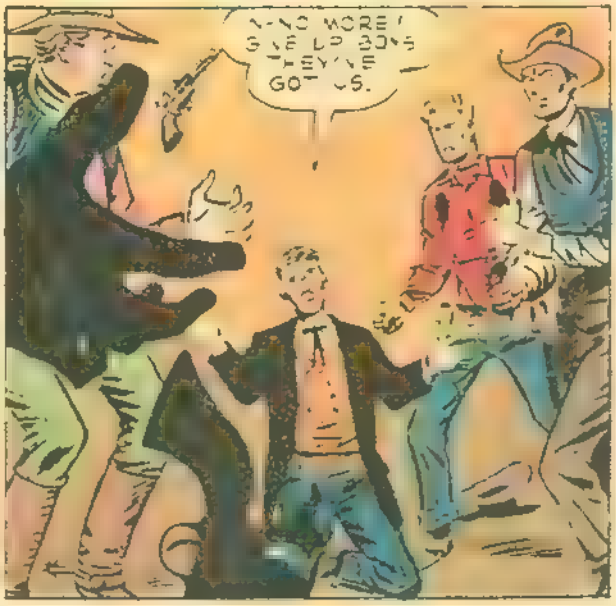
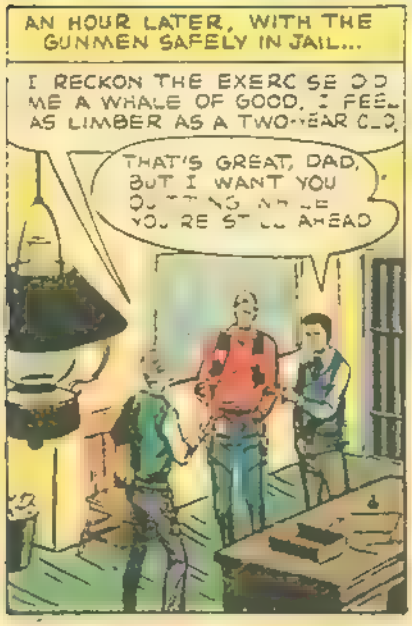
THEY PRESSED FORWARD, AND THEN A SPLINTERING CRASH FROZE THEM IN THEIR TRACKS
HUH?


IT'S RANDY!
HE'S COME TO LEND A HAND.
NOW THE TWO, SHERIFF AND DEPUTY, ARE STILL SURPRISED!

YOU HEARD ME! I SAID PUT DOWN THAT GUN
CHARGE


NO MORE! GIVE UP BOYS THEY'VE GOT US.


AN HOUR LATER, WITH THE GUNMEN SAFELY IN JAIL...
I RECKON THE EXERCISE DID ME A WHALE OF GOOD. I FEEL AS LIMBER AS A TWO-YEAR OLD.
THAT'S GREAT, DAD, BUT I WANT YOU TO STAY HERE AND REST. YOU'RE STILL AHEAD

I GUESS WE BOTH OWE YOU A DEBT. ME MOST OF ALL. YOU WERE ONLY A FRIEND BUT YOU ACTED LIKE A SON. YOU KNEW WHAT MY BADGE HAD AT STAKE. THIRTY YEARS OF HARD-EARNED PRIDE. YOU FELT THERE WAS SOMETHING WORTH FIGHTING FOR. WORTH SAVING

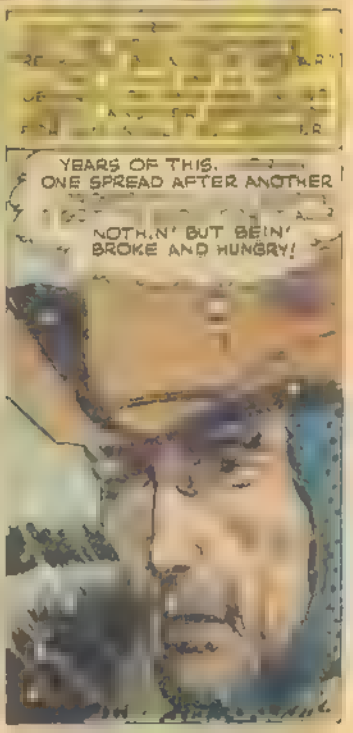
I'LL TAKE THAT STAR, DAD. I KNOW I'M READY FOR IT.
YOU'RE READY FOR IT, SON. AND WHAT'S BETTER THAN THAT, YOU'VE EARNED IT.

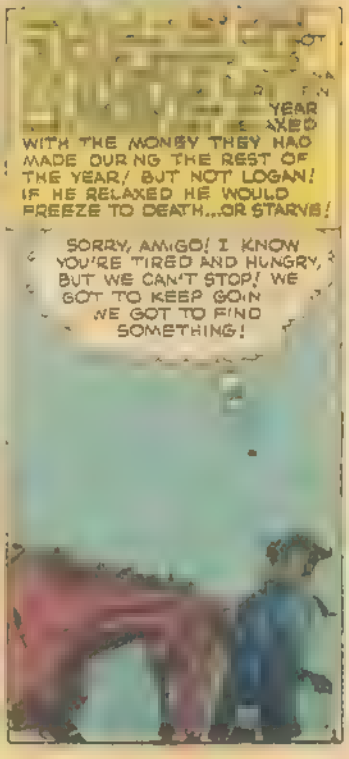
THE END

DES PER ATE 'DES'PER IT, ADJ. 1. RECKLESS BECAUSE OF DESPAIR! 2. SHOWING RECKLESSNESS CAUSED BY DESPAIR! 3. WITH LITTLE OR NO HOPE OF IMPROVEMENT; VERY SERIOUS! 4. HOPELESS! AND SO NOW, WITH THIS IN MIND, LET'S LOOK INTO

THE HEART, SOUL AND MIND OF...

THE DESPERATE MAN!




YEAR
WITH THE MONEY HAD MADE DURING THE REST OF THE YEAR, BUT NOT LOGAN! IF HE RELAXED HE WOULD FREEZE TO DEATH...OR STARVE!
SORRY, AMIGO! I KNOW YOU'RE TIRED AND HUNGRY, BUT WE CAN'T STOP! WE GOT TO KEEP GOIN WE GOT TO FIND SOMETHING!

DESPERATION CAN DRIVE A MAN BEYOND THE LIMITS OF THE ENDURANCE OF FLESH AND SPIRIT! THAT'S WHAT IT DID TO LOGAN AS HE FOUGHT THE CHILL BLASTS AND KEPT GOING ONWARD, HIS MIND FIXED ON ONE PURPOSE... SALVATION THROUGH ANY MEANS! AND THEN

STAGECOACH! SNOWBOUND!

THIS IS THE BREAK AMIGO! THEY CAN'T HEAR ME OR SEE ME BECAUSE OF THIS STORM. I COULD SNEAK UP ON 'EM! NEVER DID ANYTHING LIKE THIS BEFORE, BUT I GOT TO NOW. THERE'S MONEY THERE AMIGO! ALL I GOTTA DO IS TAKE IT.

"SHOWING RECKLESSNESS CAUSED BY DESPAIR!" THAT'S THE SECOND DEFINITION...AND LOGAN FOLLOWED TRUE TO FORM...A MAN WHO HAD NEVER DONE A CROOKED THING IN HIS LIFE, NOW ADVANCING TO THE STAGE, HIS FROZEN HAND GRASPING THE COLD METAL OF A SIX-SHOOTER!

NOT A FIGURE STIRRED TO NOTICE HIM! HIS HEART POUNDED HEAVILY, BOTH IN EXCITEMENT AT THE STRANGENESS OF WHAT HE WAS TO DO, AND THE THOUGHT OF THE MONEY THAT WOULD SOON BE HIS.

ALL HE HAD TO DO NOW WAS SAY, "RAISE 'EM!" THERE WAS NOTHING TO RESIST HIM! AND THEN HIS EYES FELL UPON ONE OF THE FIGURES, A SMALL ONE, HUDDLED CLOSE TO A LARGER FORM! AND A PAIR OF EYES, WIDE IN FEAR AND WONDER GAZED BACK INTO HIS!

WE SAID WE'D LOOK INTO THE SOUL OF LOGAN! SEE THE MIXED EMOTIONS, THE DESPERATE NEED, THE PROMISES HE MADE TO HIMSELF! NOW SEE THE FEELING HE GOT WHEN HE LOOKED INTO THOSE YOUNG EYES; "HE'S AFRAID OF ME," THOUGHT LOGAN! "ALL HIS LIFE, THAT BOY'LL HATE ME AND REMEMBER ME AS THE MAN WHO HELD UP AND ROBBED HIS FOLKS

SLOWLY, THE GUN WAS RETURNED TO THE HOLSTER! SLOWER STILL, THE GRIM LOOK ON LOGAN'S FACE WAS REPLACED BY THE TWIST OF A BITTER SMILE! AND HIS ONLY REWARD WAS SEEING THE FEAR VANISH FROM THE BOY'S FACE AND THE HAPPINESS THAT WAS REFLECTED THERE NOW AS HE SAID...

LOOKS LIKE YOU FOLKS ARE IN TROUBLE! ANYTHING I CAN DO TO HELP?

IT'S A COWBOY. HE'S GONNA HELP US.

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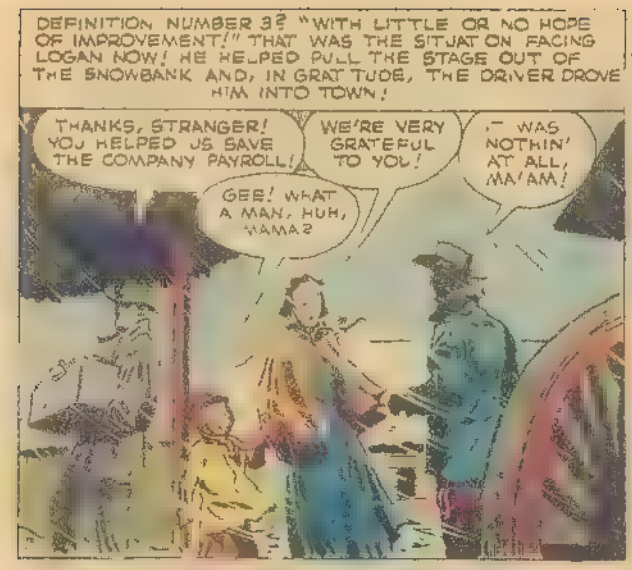
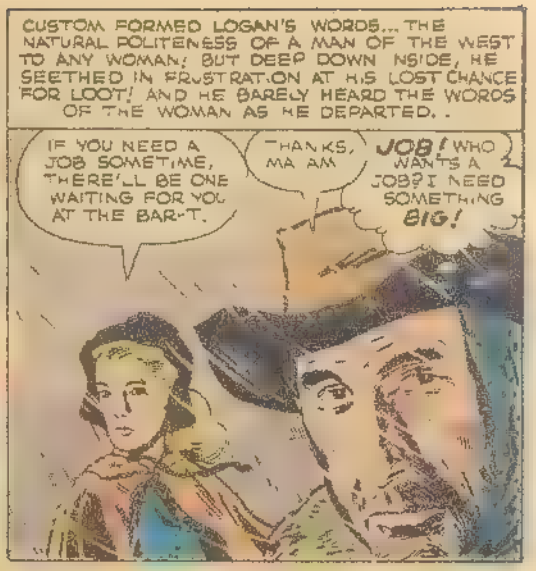
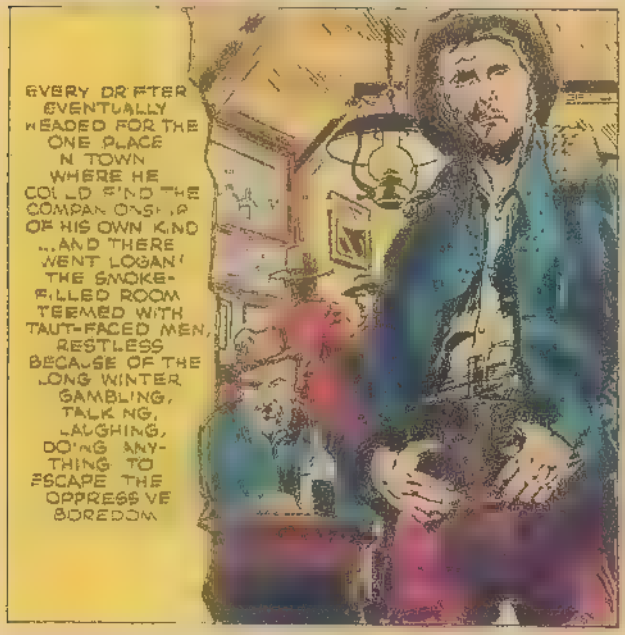
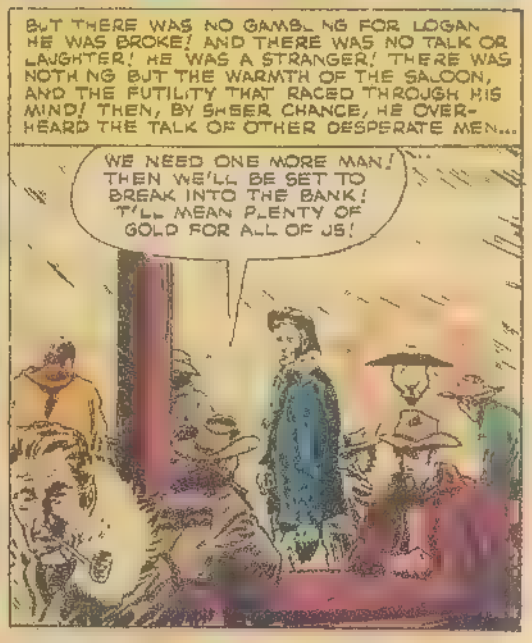
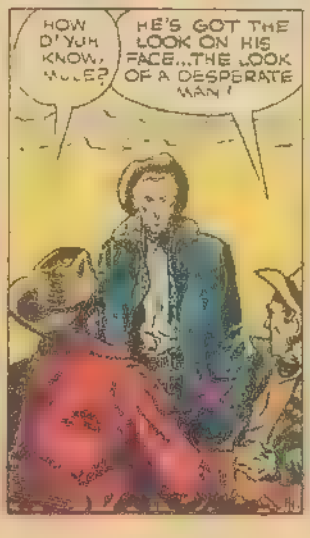

DEFINITION NUMBER 3? "WITH LITTLE OR NO HOPE OF IMPROVEMENT!" THAT WAS THE SITUATION FACING LOGAN NOW! HE HELPED PULL THE STAGE OUT OF THE SNOWBANK AND, IN GRATITUDE, THE DRIVER DROVE HIM INTO TOWN!
THANKS, STRANGER! YOU HELPED US SAVE THE COMPANY PAYROLL!
WE'RE VERY GRATEFUL TO YOU!
IT WAS NOTHIN' AT ALL, MA'AM!
GEE! WHAT A MAN, HUH, MAMA?

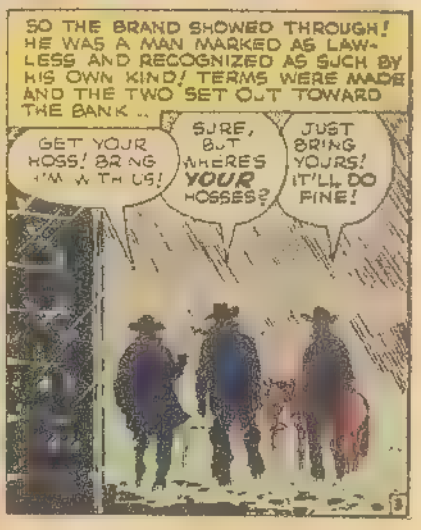

CUSTOM FORMED LOGAN'S WORDS... THE NATURAL POLITENESS OF A MAN OF THE WEST TO ANY WOMAN; BUT DEEP DOWN INSIDE, HE SEETHED IN FRUSTRATION AT HIS LOST CHANCE FOR LOOT! AND HE BARELY HEARD THE WORDS OF THE WOMAN AS HE DEPARTED. .
IF YOU NEED A JOB SOMETIME, THERE'LL BE ONE WAITING FOR YOU AT THE BAR-T.
THANKS, MA AM
JOB! WHO WANTS A JOB? I NEED SOMETHING BIG!


EVERY DRIFTER EVENTUALLY HEADED FOR THE ONE PLACE IN TOWN WHERE HE COULD FIND THE COMPANIONSHIP OF HIS OWN KIND ...AND THERE WENT LOGAN! THE SMOKE-FILLED ROOM TEEMED WITH TAUT-FACED MEN, RESTLESS BECAUSE OF THE LONG WINTER GAMBLING, TALKING, LAUGHING, DOING ANYTHING TO ESCAPE THE OPPRESSIVE BOREDOM


BUT THERE WAS NO GAMBLING FOR LOGAN HE WAS BROKE! AND THERE WAS NO TALK OR LAUGHTER! HE WAS A STRANGER! THERE WAS NOTHING BUT THE WARMTH OF THE SALOON, AND THE FUTILITY THAT RACED THROUGH HIS MIND! THEN, BY SHEER CHANCE, HE OVERHEARD THE TALK OF OTHER DESPERATE MEN...
WE NEED ONE MORE MAN! THEN WE'LL BE SET TO BREAK INTO THE BANK! IT'LL MEAN PLENTY OF GOLD FOR ALL OF US!

PARDON, GENTS! BUT I'M YOUR MAN! I'M LOOKING FOR SOMETHING ALONG THAT LINE!
EASY, KEN! HE'S ALL RIGHT


HOW D'YUH KNOW, MULE?
HE'S GOT THE LOOK ON HIS FACE...THE LOOK OF A DESPERATE MAN!


SO THE BRAND SHOWED THROUGH! HE WAS A MAN MARKED AS LAWLESS AND RECOGNIZED AS SUCH BY HIS OWN KIND! TERMS WERE MADE AND THE TWO SET OUT TOWARD THE BANK ..
GET YOUR HOSS! BRING 'IM WITH US!
SURE, BUT WHERE'S YOUR HOSSES?
JUST BRING YOURS! IT'LL DO FINE!

LOGAN CAME TO A HALT! THERE WAS SOMETHING WRONG HERE AND HE DEMANDED TO KNOW WHY THEY INSISTED ON TAKING HIS HORSE AND NO THEIRS! THEY WOULD NEED ALL FOR A GETAWAY!

OUR HORSES ARE HITCHED UP BEHIND THE BANK AND THERE'S AN EXTRA ONE THERE FOR YOU. WE'RE GOIN' TO SET THAT OLD NAG O YOURS AS PROTECTION WHEN THEY START SHOOTIN' AT US

YUH MEAN AMIGO'S GONNA GET KILLED JUST SO WE CAN MAKE A GETAWAY?

THAT'S THE IDEA MISTER. LET'S MOVE.

HIS SHARE OF A STOLEN FORTUNE WAS THERE FOR THE TAKING! ALL LOGAN HAD TO DO WAS SACRIFICE THE LIFE OF HIS OLD, TIRED AND SICK MOUNT! IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN NO PROBLEM FOR A DESPERATE MAN TO DECIDE! BUT SOMETHING HAPPENED WITHIN THE HEART OF LOGAN AND HE GAVE HIS ANSWER.

COUNT ME OUT! AMIGO AND ME, WE BEEN TOGETHER TOO LONG.

TOLD YUH HE WAS NO GOOD, MULE. JUST A SOFT-HEADED DRIFTER!

WE... COME ON. WE CAN'T WASTE TIME WITH HIM!

BANK

ANOTHER CHANCE HAD GONE DOWN THE DRAIN! TWICE HE HAD BEEN OFFERED THE GOLD HE DESIRED SO BADLY... AND TWICE HE HAD REFUSED!

WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH ME, AMIGO? WHY CAN'T I GO THROUGH WITH IT? WHY DO I QUIT JUST WHEN I'VE GOT MY HANDS ON IT?

THEN THE STACCATO OF GUNFIRE HERALDED THE ROBBERY

SCARE THE LIFE OUTA EM, SO NOBODY'LL TRY TO STOP US, KEN!

$

THEY CAME CRASHING THROUGH THE DOOR HOLDING BAGS OF GOLD...SHOOTING TO FIGHT THEIR WAY PAST THE ALERTED LAWMEN!

MULE! THEY'RE NOT SCARED!

BURIAL IN BOOT HILL WAS TOO TERRIBLE A FATE FOR EVEN SUCH DESPERATE MEN AS THESE! DOWN CAME THE GUNS...UP WENT THE HANDS!

WE QUIT! WE HAD ENOUGH!

RIGHT SMART OF YOU GENTS! SO DUMB OF YUH NOT TO FIGURE SOME PROTECTION FOR YOURSELVES! IT WOULDA WORKED OUT FOR YUH IF YUH HAD!

IT WOULDA WORKED OUT ALL RIGHT FOR YUH IF YUH HAD FIGURED SOME PROTECTION! THE WORDS RANG IN LOGAN'S EAR. THE BANDITS HAD FAILED, BUT THEY WOULD NOT HAVE IF LOGAN HAD CO-OPERATED! HE WOULD HAVE BEEN RICH! BUT LOGAN HAD NO REGRETS. HE STILL HAD AMIGO AND SOMEHOW THAT SEEMED TO BE WORTH ALL THE GOLD IN THE WORLD

CAN'T GO...O MORE...AM GO! LOOKS ...L KS THE END...OF

TIME PASSED AND NOW THE FURY OF THE STORM ABATED! AND BEFORE BLACKNESS CLOSED IN COMPLETELY, LOGAN WAS AWARE OF TWO THINGS...A SIGN AND A CRY...

MAMA! MAMA!

BART-KANOI

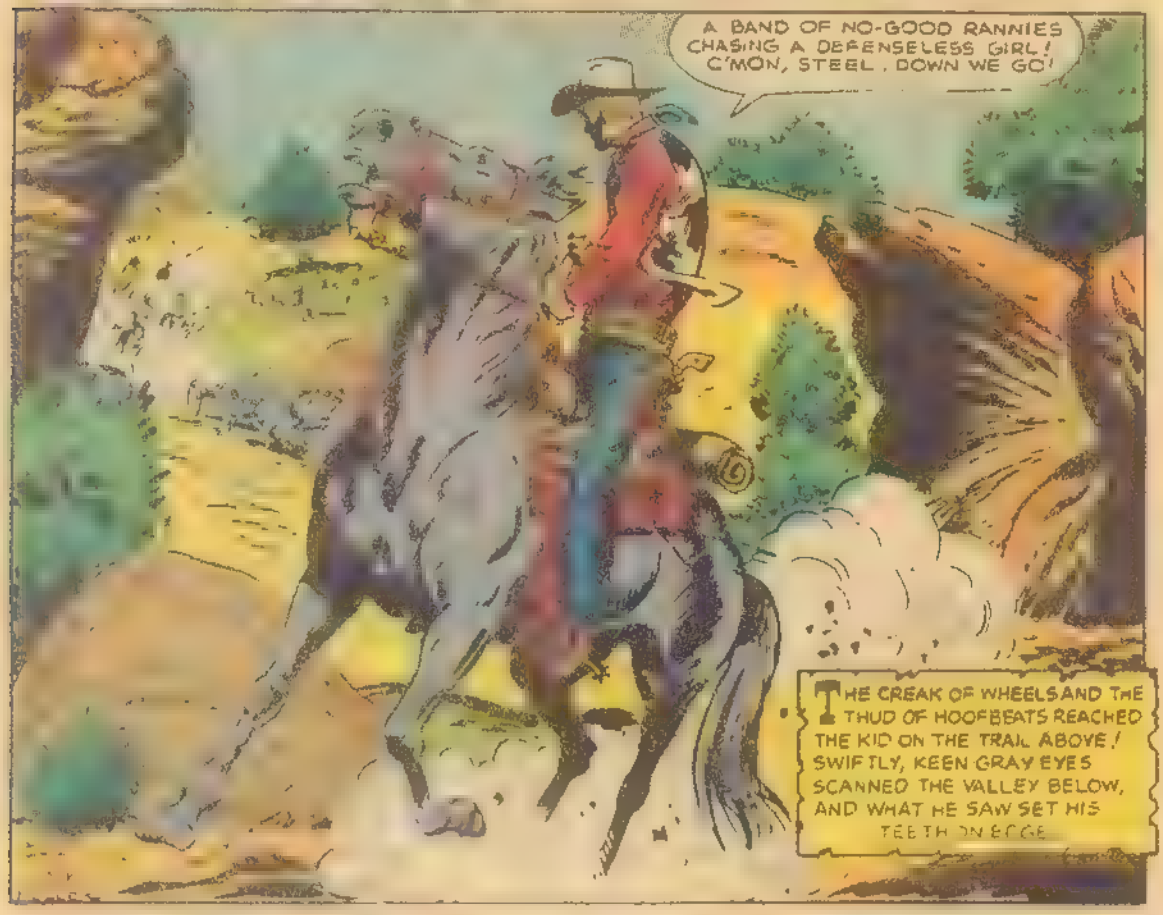
MAMA! MAMA! H S EYES ARE OPENING!

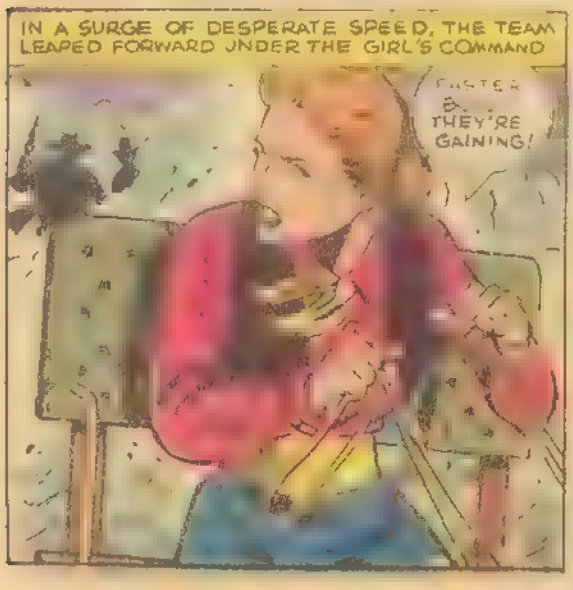
FEELING BETTER?

BAD SHAPE BUT YOUR HORSE KEPT YOU COVERED AND WARM! I'M HAPPY TO SEE YOU WELL AGA.N! YOU SEE, MY HUSBAND DIED OUT THERE IN THE COLD LAST YEAR! I'D HATE TO SEE THE SAME THING HAPPEN TO **YOU!**

THIS AND THAT THE TIME FOR DESPERATION WAS **PAST!**

KID COLT OUTLAW in "GUN SMOKE!"


A BAND OF NO-GOOD RANNIES CHASING A DEFENSELESS GIRL! C'MON, STEEL, DOWN WE GO!
THE CREAK OF WHEELS AND THE THUD OF HOOFBEATS REACHED THE KID ON THE TRAIL ABOVE! SWIFTLY, KEEN GRAY EYES SCANNED THE VALLEY BELOW, AND WHAT HE SAW SET HIS TEETH ON EDGE



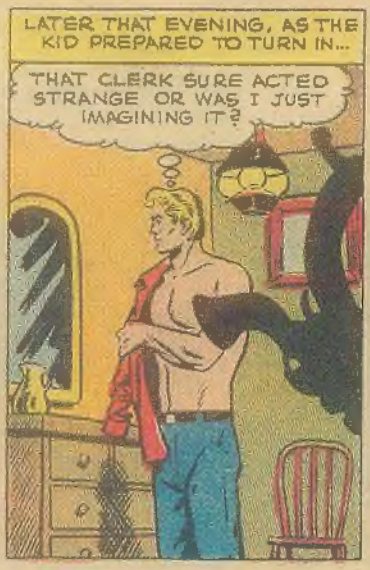
BUT A SECOND LATER
LOOKA THAR, MALLON! SOMEONE'S JOININ' OUR PARTY!
HE WON'T BE WITH US LONG START SHOOTIN' THE SECOND HE GETS INTO RANGE!
1

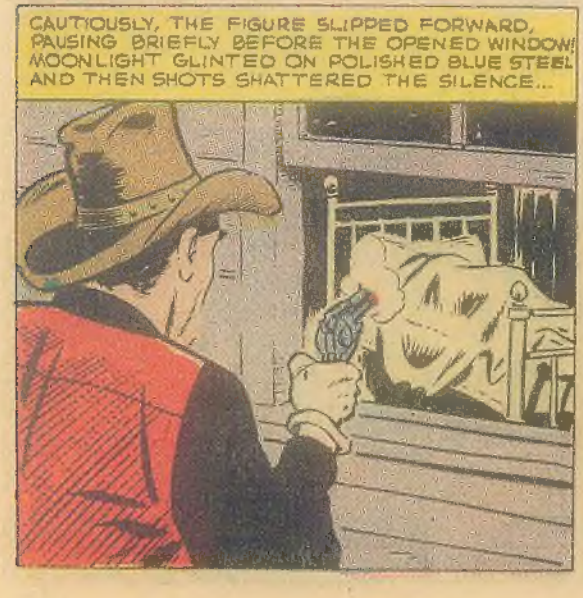
THEY SLAPPED LEATHER, BUT THE KID WAS WAY AHEAD! TRUSTY COLTS LEAPED INTO ACTION
FOR ONE STUNNED MOMENT, THEY HESITATED, THEN RACED AWAY IN HEADLONG FLIGHT...
I'M ANNE MARSHALL, AND I'M VERY GRATEFUL! IT WAS A MIRACLE YOUR BEING HERE!
I'M GLAD I WAS PASSING THROUGH, MISS MARSHALL!
I RECKON T'S NONE OF MY AFFAIR, AND I DON'T AIM TO MEDDLE, BUT IF YOU'RE IN TROUBLE AND NEED HELP
I AM IN TROUBLE AND I DO NEED HELP
IT'S ABOUT MY UNCLE OLIVER MARSHALL! HE'S A GOLD PROSPECTOR! COME UP TO THE HOUSE! I CAN EXPLAIN IT MUCH BETTER THERE!
SHORTLY AFTERWARD IN THE MARSHALL HOUSE..
I'VE SEEN PLENTY OF GOLD SAMPLINGS, BUT THIS ORE TOPS THEM ALL! I'D SAY YOUR UNCLE OLIVER HAS STRUCK IT RICH!
NOT QUITE, MR. COLT, BUT HE'S CLOSER THAN HE EVER WAS!
HE'S OUT IN THE HILLS R GHT NOW, TRYING TO TRACK DOWN THE MOTHER LODE, BUT THOSE VULTURES YOU CHASED OFF ARE ONTO HIS GOOD FORTUNE!
BUT WHY WERE THEY CHAS NG YOU?
BECAUSE I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS WHERE UNCLE OLIVER IS! I WAS BRING NG H M SOME SUPPLIES N THE BUCKBOARD WHEN I SPOTTED THEM TRAILING ME!
THEN FOR THE T ME BEING, YOUR UNCLE OLIVER S SAFE!

MINUTES LATER, AS THE KID PREPARED TO LEAVE...
THAT'S THE SADDLE HORN HOTEL UP THE STREET! I'LL BE EXPECTING YOU TOMORROW MORNING RIGHT AFTER BREAKFAST!
THAT'S RIGHT, ANNE! IF WE GET AN EARLY START, WE SHOULD GET TO YOUR UNCLE BY NOON!

MEANWHILE, FROM A VANTAGE POINT UP THE STREET...
HERE HE COMES, HEADED RIGHT FER THE HOTEL!
GOOD! GIT INSIDE AN' TELL THE CLERK WHAT I TOLD YUH!

R-ROOM NINE, SIR! THAT'S ON THE GROUND FLOOR TO THE REAR! A REAL QUIET ROOM, SIR, AND VERY COMFORTABLE!
THANKS! THAT'S JUST WHAT I WANT!




CAUTIOUSLY, THE FIGURE SLIPPED FORWARD, PAUSING BRIEFLY BEFORE THE OPENED WINDOW! MOONLIGHT GLINTED ON POLISHED BLUE STEEL AND THEN SHOTS SHATTERED THE SILENCE...

MOMENTS PASSED! SILENCE RETURNED, AND THEN A NEW SOUND WAS HEARD... THE CREAK OF A DOOR SWINGING INWARD ON RUSTY HINGES...
N-NO POINT IN WAITING ANY LONGER! THE SOONER I DISPOSE OF HIM, THE BETTER!

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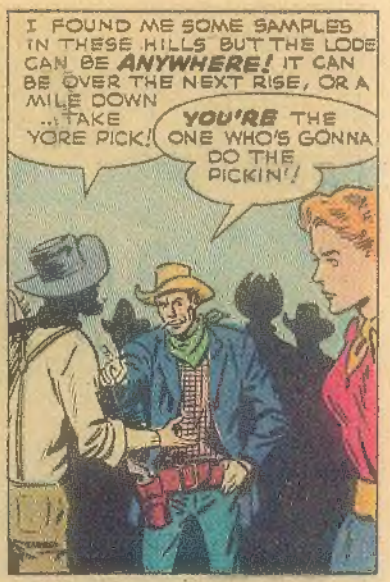
BUT WHEN THE CLERK ENTERED, LEAN HANDS SHOT FORWARD...
Y-YOU! IT CAN'T BE! THOSE SHOTS...
THE ONLY HARM THOSE SHOTS DID WAS TO YOUR LUMPY MATTRESS! I FIGURED SOMETHING WAS WRONG AND BEDDED DOWN ON THE FLOOR!
AND YOU WERE IN ON IT ALL THE WAY! SO START TALKING FAST!
I-I WANTED NO PART OF IT! BUT THEY FORCED ME! MALLON SAID I'D EITHER RENT YOU THIS ROOM OR HE'D...
AND THE REST OF THEIR PLANS?
I THINK THEY SAID SOMETHING ABOUT DEALIN' WITH THE MARSHALL GIRL! THAT'S ALL I KNOW, MISTER, SO HELP ME!
MINUTES LATER, WHEN HE BURST INTO THE GIRL'S HOUSE...
TOO LATE! THEY GOT HERE BEFORE ME!
THE KEEN EYES DETECTED THE TELLTALE CLUES, AND SOON A LONELY TRAIL ECHOED TO GALLOPING HOOFS...
THEY CAME THIS WAY ALL RIGHT! THESE PRINTS ON THE TRAIL ARE THE SAME ONES LEADING AWAY FROM THE HOUSE!
MEANWHILE, IN A LONELY MOUNTAIN REGION...
I COULDN'T HELP IT, UNCLE OLIVER! THEY FORCED ME TO BRING THEM HERE!
THEY WON'T BE GETTIN' AWAY WITH THIS, ANNE! IF THEY HURT YOU, THEY'LL GIT PAID BACK IN FULL!
NO ONE NEED GIT HURT PROVIDIN' YOU SUPPLY A LITTLE OF THE RIGHT INFORMATION!
WHAT'RE YOU DRIVIN' AT?
4

THAT'S THE TROUBLE WITH YOU BUZZARDS! YOU THINK GOLD JUST LAYS AROUND WAITIN' TUH BE FOUND! BUT IT TAKES TIME, HARD WORK AND PLENTY OF LUCK!


I FOUND ME SOME SAMPLES IN THESE HILLS BUT THE LODE CAN BE ANYWHERE! IT CAN BE OVER THE NEXT RISE, OR A MILE DOWN ...TAKE YORE PICK!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S GONNA DO THE PICKIN'!

YOU'RE NOT FOOLIN' ANYONE! WE FOUND THIS DYNAMITE IN YORE MULE PACK, SO I FIGGER YOU WERE GETTIN' READY TUH BLAST! PICK THE PLACE, AN' YUH BETTER BE RIGHT!
DYNAMITE

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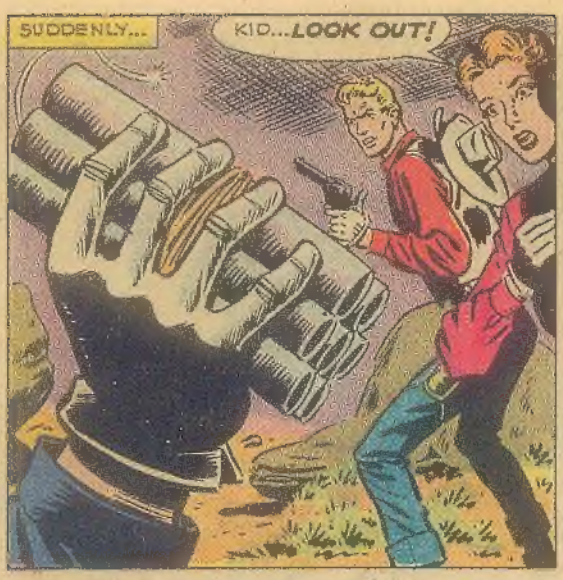
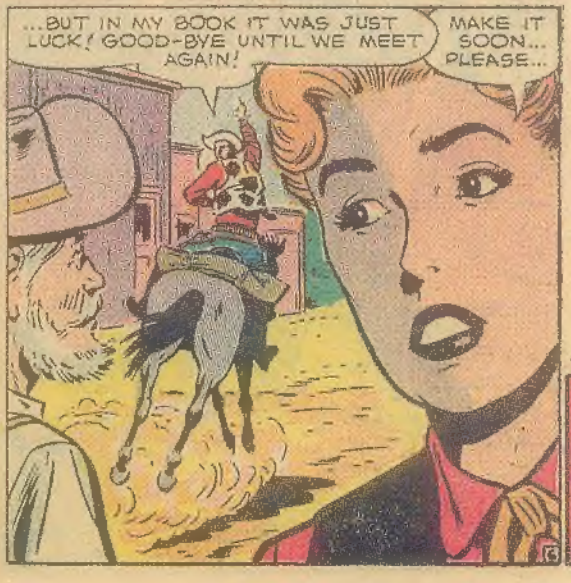

SUDDENLY...
KID...LOOK OUT!

I'LL BLAST YUH FROM HERE!

MINUTES LATER, AS THE REVERBERATIONS DIED AWAY AND THE DUST SETTLED...
THE DUST! LOOK AT IT! IT'S YELLA LIKE SUNSHINE! YOU HIT A BULL'S-EYE, SON! YOU'VE UNCOVERED THE LODE!
OH, UNCLE OLIVER!

THE FOLLOWING MORNING WITH THE CAPTURED GUNMEN SAFELY IN JAIL...
YOU DESERVE AN EQUAL SHARE, KID! IF YOU HADN'T OF TOSSED THAT DYNAMITE WHAR YOU DID, THAT LODE MAY NEVER HAVE BEEN FOUND!
THAT'S ONE WAY OF LOOKING AT IT!.


...BUT IN MY BOOK IT WAS JUST LUCK! GOOD-BYE UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN!
MAKE IT SOON... PLEASE...
THE END